

Christmas greetings from the Spilling family



From our 50th wedding anniversary up in the Norwegian mountains.

First row: Giulia (from Rome), Elisabeth, Helene, and Olav

Second row: Marie, Haakon and Paal

Third row: Anne, Heidi, Pieter, Thormod, Per, Ingrid, and Even

Dear Maria and Andreu,

Now we really have had the feeling that we are living "close to the North Pole"! It has been extremely cold for quite some time, but now it is a little more acceptable. We have just been on a short visit to Thormod and his family in Molde (North-west Coast), and when we left, it was around zero. So it was quite a shock coming back home to min. 22 degrees C! When we got home we discovered that the water pipes were frozen which caused us lots of trouble, but finally we got the water back, and hopefully the problems are over. It seems the cats had caused some of the trouble because they are hiding under the house and they had apparently torn the insulation off the pipes - they probably needed the insulation themselves! We have about 10 wild cats outside and around the house. I am feeding them with warm milk. You should see them lined up outside my kitchen window begging for food. They are very shy and never try to get into the house. They pay the rent by keeping the rats and mice away both at our house and our two neighbor farms.

We have already got snow and the more eager enthusiasts are already out skiing up in the hills around here.

This year we have celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary – (quite unbelievable!) – we invited the family to spend a weekend with us up in the mountains in the end of August at a beautiful old hotel. Fefor Hotel has a long history as a winter sports place, and the interior has been very well taken care of so you can feel the atmosphere when you step inside. The summer was spent partly in our summerhouse and as “tourists” driving to places we hadn’t been to before here in Norway. Paal joined Per on his sailboat and sailed from Oslo to Holmesund. They both like sailing, and Elisabeth (17, Pieter’s daughter) and her boyfriend also joined them.

In November we went for a week to Holland to visit friends and to celebrate a 75-years birthday. We always enjoy coming back to where we stayed for 8 years and had such a wonderful and interesting time. And we are pleased to discover that we still can communicate in Dutch!

Paal is still very active – both in local politics, and also keeping in touch with his old profession. In October he was invited to a meeting in Stockholm where he gave a talk about how he got involved with the beginning of the Internet. He has also been asked to organize/administer a doctoral defense in early 2011. He has, however, got some health problems with regard to the blood plates. The level was far too low and he is taking medicine which is supposed to keep it on an acceptable level. He goes regularly to the hospital to have it checked. It has improved, but not yet stabilized.

In our age it is supposed to be very important to be active and exercise as much as possible! Therefore we were very pleased when the new golf course opened here last summer! It is a 9-hole course and in walking distance from us. Both very social and an investment in good health – I hope! However, until the greens are green again we have to find our skis. We have excellent slopes for easy skiing in the hills here.

But first we look forward to the Christmas holidays which will be spent with the family. Pieter and Anne have an extra “daughter” this year, Giulia (17 years) from Rome, she is here as an exchange student. She finds it cold here, but was delighted when it started to snow!

**Then we want to wish you a merry Christmas and
a healthy and happy New Year!**

Kiss and hug from

Marie and Paal